

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, May 2, 2016, to review the CARES and Planning and Community Development sections of the proposed FY 2017 Budget.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:35 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; Elizabeth Park, Director of CARES; Christal Batey, Community Resource Advocate; Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Kathleen Gallagher, Greenbelt News Review; Laura Kressler and Bill Orleans.

Greenbelt CARES

Dr. Park discussed many of CARES' accomplishments during FY 2016 including:

- Provided family, individual and group counseling to Greenbelt residents and those in surrounding communities;*
- Continued a Youth Mentoring Program begun with funds from a Community Development Block Grant;*
- Provided two trainings from the Darkness to Light Series, Stewards of Children to educate City staff and community members on how to effectively prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse;*
- Provided Anti-Bullying Group at Springhill Lake Elementary with school personnel;*
- Offered GED and added after school tutoring program at Springhill Lake Recreation Center; and*
- Offered Active Parenting Workshops at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.*

Dr. Park said CARES is very proud of its outcomes including: 100% of youth who ended formal counseling in FY 2012 were not adjudicated two years later; 79% of youth assessed at the end of formal counseling showed significant improvement; and the satisfaction survey from CARES participants indicated 100% satisfaction with the services provided.

Dr. Park and Ms. Batey said the primary need for CARES in FY 2017 is to increase the Geriatric Case Manager/Counselor's hours from 24 hours to 32 hours per week. They explained this is necessary to maintain the level of service provided to residents.

Ms. Davis requested the increase in hours for the Geriatric Case Manager/Counselor be added to the budget update list.

Council then reviewed the CARES budget page by page.

Under Accomplishments, Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach mentioned the Alcohol or Drug (AOD) Assessments that had been provided for over 50 students suspended from school for AOD

offenses. Ms. Mach said she was a member of the National League of Cities Joint Task Force on the Opioid and Heroin Abuse Crisis and said it would be helpful if CARES could provide data on the number of these students with opioid or heroin issues. Dr. Park explained that it was not possible to break the assessments down to the specific drug.

In response to a question from Ms. Mach, Dr. Park said Recreation staff is working on scheduling the Darkness to Light training for its employees.

Ms. Mach asked about the difference between evidence based and research based programs. Dr. Park explained that evidence based programs are developed through a partnership with a university or other educational facility and an outcome study is produced. She said research based programs are developed through research and a model is developed from the research.

Ms. Davis asked about the SMART recovery program. Dr. Park explained that a SMART recovery trained professional teaches participants in the program tools for addiction recovery based on the latest scientific research and includes free, self-empowering, science-based mutual help groups. She said this differs from Alcoholics Anonymous which is a participant led program.

Mayor Jordan asked about the Emergency Relief Fund. Dr. Park said many groups consistently make generous donations to the fund. Mr. McLaughlin added that if the fund balance becomes low, letters are sent out to various organizations asking for assistance.

In response to a question from Ms. Davis, Dr. Park said she had been unsuccessful in hiring a Spanish speaking counselor. She noted that CARES does have Spanish speaking interns but, because supervision is only available by English speaking supervisor, they are not allowed to counsel in Spanish.

Ms. Batey reviewed many of the accomplishments of the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program including:

- Offered a Caregiver's Memory Support Group and expanded to offer a Memory Café;
- Established the Aging in Place Prince George's Working Group to share resources with other communities;
- Established a Senior Emergency Fund;
- Organized the first Women of Wellness Fair;
- Provided residents with in-home nursing and community wellness services; and
- Offered monthly screenings and health programs at Green Ridge House.

Ms. Davis commented on the many services and programs offered at Green Ridge House. Ms. Batey explained that more residents are participating in programs such as art classes, French classes, yoga classes, etc.

Dr. Park spoke about success of the Drop-in Tutoring at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. She said the tutors from the University of Maryland are consistently busy tutoring participants.

Planning & Community Development

Ms. Craze said staffing and workload continue to be a concern for the Planning and Community Development Department. She explained that the combined impact of past staff reductions and the increased workload have resulted to changes in inspection practices and a reduction in animal control service hours.

Ms. Craze said efforts have been made to introduce efficiencies in operations such as; implementation of field base reporting for code enforcement; implementation of electronic record keeping with the PetPoint system for animal control; and implementation of an electronic parking ticket system with Complus Data Innovations. She said staff is currently working with a cloud based provider for record keeping for false alarm reduction/burglar alarm licensing and animal control.

Ms. Craze discussed many of the accomplishments and objectives of the Department. She also reviewed the status of several Planning and Capital Improvement projects.

Council then reviewed the budget page by page.

There was discussion regarding the Forest Preserve assessment. Ms. Craze said she is hoping to have the assessment report to the Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB) in June for its first public review. She said she expects the FPAB will have several meetings on the study, as well as a field trip to the Forest Preserve, and then a work session will be scheduled with Council.

There was discussion regarding Franklin Park operating without a current occupancy license because of open violation notices for 2014 and 2015. Ms. Craze said she is meeting with Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Shay, City Solicitor, tomorrow regarding this matter.

Ms. Craze said she believes Franklin Park has been investing in the apartment units themselves and not in the infrastructure in common areas. She noted a lot of inspections are in the common areas.

Ms. Davis requested an Abatement Fund be added to the budget update list.

In response to a question from Mr. Herling, Ms. Craze explained that criteria set forth in the Maryland Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MdMUTCD) must be considered in determining the usage of traffic calming measures.

Ms. Pope mentioned vehicles do not come to a complete stop at the intersection of Cherrywood Lane and Breezewood Drive. She suggested "Stop" be painted on the pavement. Ms. Craze said staff would consult the MdMUTCD and look into the suggestion.

Under Performance Measures, Mr. Putens suggested "Other Meetings" be broken down further - such as meetings with developers, property owners, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, etc.

Ms. Davis mentioned a resident from Hunting Ridge had requested the bus stop on northbound Hanover Parkway be moved to a safer location. Ms. Craze said Ms. Hruby, Assistant Director

of Planning, is working with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) on this request.

Animal Control

Ms. Pope asked about locations for a second dog park. Ms. Craze distributed a list of possible dog park locations.

Ms. Craze discussed the need for an additional part-time animal control officer to restore complete animal control service on the weekends. Ms. Davis requested a part-time animal control officer be added to the budget update list, as well as security cameras for the animal shelter.

In response to a question from Ms. Davis, Ms. Craze said the majority of volunteer hours are spent cleaning the shelter and socializing with the animals.

Ms. Pope asked about changing the dog park license fee which is currently a \$5 one-time fee for both residents and non-residents. Ms. Craze said she will be exploring a structured licensing fee.

Under Performance Measures, Council requested in-kind services be listed also.

Mr. Putens and Ms. Pope said more enforcement is needed at the Dog Park. Ms. Craze said Animal Control patrols the dog park normally twice each day during their routine patrols. She said if there are people at the park, they stop and check licenses. There was mention of an incident of an unlicensed dog (from outside the City) acting aggressively towards a licensed dog in the park. Ms. Craze said she'll direct Animal Control staff to increase patrol of the dog park. Ms. Davis suggested the Park Ranger may be able to assist also.

Informational Items

Ms. Davis requested Mr. McNeill, Principal of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, be invited to the next Business Breakfast.

Ms. Davis also requested a work session with Prince George's County Public Schools Pupil Accounting & School Boundary Office be added to the work session scheduling list.

Council Reports

Ms. Davis reported on the Maryland 21st Century School Commission meeting.

The meeting ended at 11:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*